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Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come to You asking for a miracle of Your intervention. We claim Your promise given through Isaiah, "You shall hear a word behind you saying, 'This is the way, walk in it.'"—Isaiah 30:21. We humble ourselves and ask for that word of guidance today in the continuing deadlock over the budget and the shutdown of Government. Jesus' words in Mark 3:25 sound an alarm: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." We acknowledge that presently we are a divided government. Create in all of us a humble desire to find a solution. We all belong to You; we are here in leadership by Your appointment, and we believe that You will show us a way to bring resolution without a sacrifice of truth. If we all admit our need to turn to You at this crucial time, You will reveal a solution beyond our own wisdom. O God, bless us with Your guidance and grace. We pray specifically for our leaders BOB DOLE, TOM DASCHLE, TRENT LOTT, WENDELL FORD, NEWT GINGRICH, and President Clinton. Anoint their minds and hearts with Your inspiring and enlightening spirit. May we, along with them, listen to hear Your voice saying, "This is the way, walk in it * * * and walk in it together." In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, let me tell the staffs that we do not normally have Sunday sessions. In fact, I think the most recent Sunday session was a few years back. We do not have the exact date. I apologize. But I think we have, hopefully, very important business to resolve today. I hope, in accordance with the message from the Chaplain, that we can find a way to reach out to one another. That process is going on as we speak.

I understand that the President's Chief of Staff, Leon Panetta, is now meeting with the Democratic leadership, Senator DASCHLE and others. He will soon be meeting with Budget chairman, Senator DOMENICI, on this side, and the House Budget chairman, Mr. KASICH, in my office, room S-230. Following that meeting, hopefully, I will be able to visit with the Speaker. I just hope there can be some resolution of this matter today.

I am now advised that the last Sunday session was October 27, 1990. It has been a little over 5 years ago.

In my view, we made a good faith offer last night. I think it has been received as such by the President, or at least his representatives, and hopefully, if there is a small difference, we can resolve that.

We are prepared to act. We are prepared to stay here throughout the day, into the evening, if necessary. I know there is a human side to this, too. There are a lot of families out there who are very concerned and probably under a great deal of stress. I can assure them that, whatever happens, when they come back to work, they will be paid for the days they missed, because they were missed through no fault of their own. That we can assure them. So I hope they have that assurance.

So we will be working this afternoon and, hopefully, with everybody with the same mindset; that is, to see if we cannot come together.

I want to thank the Senator from Virginia, Senator WARNER, for his efforts throughout yesterday, and the other Senators on the floor, Senator COCHRAN, Senator GORTON, Senator COVERDELL, Senator SNOWE, and Senator HATFIELD, of course, the chairman of the committee. He would like to have us pass a continuing resolution. He would also like us to finish the other appropriations bills, and while I am at it, bring up the Labor-HHS appropriations bill and pass that, hopefully this afternoon, on a voice vote, so we can go to conference and have that one last appropriation bill disposed of if that is possible. Maybe we can accomplish that today.

We will have a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each. As I said last evening, if the rollcall vote is necessary, we will make certain that if we should reach some agreement, if a rollcall vote is necessary, we will notify all Members so nobody is disadvantaged. Hopefully, if we can reach agreement on both sides of the aisle, there would be no need for a record vote if we can do it by a voice vote. Some of our colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, are on business matters far from here. So we will try to accommodate their concerns.

If we are going to act before the next work week, we need to do it today so some of the workers will know they will be coming to work tomorrow or the next day.

So I thank my colleagues for their patience, and I thank everybody for their indulgence in this Sunday session. But, in my view, it is important and we should be here. We should be trying to resolve this controversy. On the other side, obviously, it is very important.

Everybody understands that the primary concern, at least on our side of the aisle, is that we have a 7-year balanced budget, a balanced budget by the year 2002. I guess I would say the major

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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